

Western Pioneers Weekly Newsletter



The Premier team defeated Silverdale 38-15 at Kumeu on Saturday, to claim the Country Cup. (See match report below)

This win puts the Century 21 Burmester Realty Western Pioneers into second place, one point behind North Shore, on the Premiership table.

It's worth noting that there was a very interested spectator in attendance – Steve Williams, Tiger's caddy. How long before his boss is seen on the sideline?

Next week's game is against Takapuna at Onewa Stadium. If you are looking for a good Saturday afternoon's entertainment, Onewa will be the place to be.

We were going to profile our three UK imports, Geraint Walsh, Josh Williams and Tom Page, but the Rodney Times may have beaten us to it as they interviewed them last week. Watch out for them in this week's papers.

Remember to note in your dairies May 21 as our next home game, which will be played at Helensville. All of you receiving this newsletter are invited and you will receive a light lunch and drinks in the Helensville clubrooms, commencing 1.00pm. There will be raffles etc, plus seeing the Pioneers play Glenfield.

Sponsor Profile

Each week we will try and profile a sponsor (or two). Please support our sponsors as often as you can, as their financial support is vital in keeping the Western Pioneers team in the competition. This week we will start with our head sponsor, **Century 21 Burmester Realty**.

Century 21 has been in Helensville since 1992 when they took over Elders Real Estate.

Several years ago Jane Burmester bought the Helensville **Century 21** franchise. Jane's passion and interest outside real estate is in equestrian, where she has represented NZ. Prior to getting involved in the real estate game, Jane had a career in advertising and marketing which has been most useful in her real estate career, which she commenced in 1997.

In 2010 the Helensville **Century 21** office was ranked 4 out of 54 in NZ, and Jane ranked number 1 real estate salesperson for **Century 21** in Auckland and number 4 in NZ – outstanding achievements.

Century 21 first became a sponsor for Helensville rugby last year, and snapped up the opportunity to become lead sponsor for the Western Pioneers. As Jane commented. "This is one of my best business decisions, getting involved with the Pioneers and being involved with a new venture that is going to be very successful for both **Century 21** and the team. **Century 21** is in this for the long haul."

In addition to sponsoring rugby, **Century 21** also sponsor the local bowling and tennis clubs, the Kaipara College netball team and the Woodhill Sands Equestrian operation.

They have a very experienced team of agents, most of who have lived in the Helensville District for most of their lives. These include Des Hawkes who was born in Helensville and farmed in the area. He was previously with Elders Real Estate, and has won a number of awards within the industry.

Rex Keane is well known to all those of us close to the Helensville Rugby Club. He is a Life Member, and been involved on the committee for many years. He is also a very successful real estate agent for **Century 21**.

Eleanore Webber is another local person who has achieved high recognition during her time with **Century 21**, having previously been in the travel industry.

Anna Trent, herself a well-known equestrian competitor, has recently joined the team, and Jodi Davidson has come from the local Post Shop to be the office manager.

Thanks **Century 21**

Match Report - 30 April 2011

On a weekend of royal pageantry, tradition and romance, it was the Western Pioneers who themselves uncorked a regal performance of champagne quality rugby, based on the games' finest traditions of pace, power and skill to send Orewa New World Silverdale packing, defeating them 38-15 at Kumeu.

The Western Pioneers, proudly sponsored by Jane Burmester and her award winning Century 21 Helensville franchise, ended the honeymoon start to the season the unbeaten Silverdale team had enjoyed. In the process they relieved them of their prized possession, the Country Cup. Silverdale had previously repelled 16 challenges for this trophy, always hotly contested between Mahurangi, Helensville, Kumeu and themselves. For Kumeu, this is the first time it has found a home in their clubrooms; for Helensville supporters, it is regarded as a homecoming of a piece of silverware whose rightful place of belonging is at rugby headquarters on Rautawhiri Rd.

The game was barely two minutes old when the Pioneers backs pulled off a very smart backline move from an attacking scrum 30 metres out. Full back Geraint Walsh found himself in space and he was able to deliver a lovely pass to Aupiu Pritchard who scored wide out.

Silverdale came back and their hooker Travis Brighthouse scored after some shoddy defence from the Pioneers. Regan Oxenham then kicked a handy penalty, but this short-lived advantage was negated when Silverdale again brushed past weak defence to score again. The kick failed and it was 10-8 to the visitors.

Western's backs were continuing to calve through the Silverdale defence and again from good scrum ball and another phase, Pritchard was in again, the conversion successful. But for the third time, Silverdale fought back, strolled through poor defence and scored another unconverted try to level the scores 15-15. Outstanding for Silverdale throughout the half was their fullback, Jordan Puletua, who made ground each time he elected to run. Oxenham kicked an impressive 45m penalty to put Western ahead 18-15 at halftime.

Defence coach Hugh McGaham must have read the riot act at halftime, because the Western defence in the second half was to prove impenetrable. Even from this biased scribe's viewpoint, there was only one team in it in the last 40 minutes.

The Western backs were unstoppable, none more so than their player of the day Phillip Tuigamala. He must only stand as high as your average dining table, but his strength, speed and sidestepping skills make him the jewel in the Western crown. He continually broke the Silverdale defence, and not far behind him was his brother, and captain, Nalu.

The tries came at regular intervals, and perhaps it was just as well Oxenham's trusty boot failed him

this half, as it would have been a cricket score.

Pritchard scored his third try, and it's understandable why locals want to name the ground after him as he has now scored five tries in just two appearances on this lush piece of turf.

Oxenham helped himself to a try, intercepting and running 40 metres to score and young Bryce Steel marked his Western debut from the bench by also dotting down. This local Kumeu lad shows a ton of promise and could be a part of this team for sometime. The rout was completed when hooker Mehaka Wickliffe scored, for a final score of 38-15.

Lindsay Ellery and his assistant coaches Sean Gray and Stu Hollier deserve congratulations for the way they are moulding these players, who possess abundant skills, into a team that is showing commitment and determination. There is still along way to go in this competition, and their mettle will be fully tested next week when they head east to take on the perennial heavyweights, Takapuna.

In the early game the Western Pioneers Senior First team lost 20-6 to Silverdale, after squandering many opportunities. They are a better team than this result shows, and expect them to bounce back to winning form shortly.



Handing over of the Country Cup by Silverdale captain to Pioneers captain Nalu Tuigamala